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strains in each state. It will offer suggestions as to the organization of local societies devoted to the study of eugenics. It proffers its services free of charge to persons seeking advice as to the consequences of proposed marriage matings. In a word, it is devoted to the advancement of the science and practice of Eugenics [p. 271].

ROBERT M. YERKES

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Penal Servitude. By E. STAGG WHITIN. New York: National Committee on Prison Labor, 1912.

The title of the book indicates the point of attack on the contract system of prison labor. The preface expresses the hope that the campaign against this system will be continued "until it can be said with truth that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, not even as a punishment for crime, exists within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdiction." By "servitude" the author seems to mean a condition in which the labor of the prisoner is exploited to his detriment for the advantage of contractors. He surely cannot mean that a convict is to be left in entire freedom, on an equality with law-abiding citizens, or that he is to be permitted to remain idle if he is unwilling to work. He declares that "the status of the convict is that of one in penal servitude—the last surviving vestige of the old slave system." Whether this epithet helps to an understanding of the subject each reader must judge for himself; certain it is that no substitute for enforced labor is proposed by the author; and it is also certain that, so long as a man is deprived of freedom as punishment for crime, or for his own reformation, or for social protection, it will seem to him very much like "involuntary servitude," no matter what novel name is found for the situation. The book does give convincing evidence that penalty should be economically administered, that by probation and parole the time of incarceration should be shortened as much as possible, consistent with justice; but for some, so far as we can now see, involuntary labor will remain necessary.

Dr. Whitin urges (p. 8) that it is the duty of the state to provide labor for all convicts, labor which will not compete with free labor; and that the prisoner should "return to the state the full amount of his cost to it, and support his wife and children." Perhaps he would add indemnity for damages to the parties injured. It is the duty of the state to do what is possible in this direction, but duty does not include the impossible. What should be included in cost to the state? The cost of police, courts, prison buildings, administration, or the indi-

vidual convict's share of this cost? The book is not clear on this point and offers no estimate or method of making an estimate. It might, perhaps, for all we know, cost a hundred years or more of labor for many a criminal to pay back what he has robbed or ruined by his misdeeds. All that we can do is to make the industry of prisoners as productive as possible, and to encourage each convict to good conduct by a gratuity measured somewhat by his industry and other desirable qualities. But to promise him wages is to promise him the moon; for no wages fund, in the strict business sense, is created.

There is, indeed, a glowing and rosy optimism about the financial results to be expected from the "state-use system." That system is one toward which modern thought and practice are moving. It eliminates outside interference with prison discipline; it is the form of organization which is best adapted to educational training of young men for industries to which they are best fitted by nature and habit. Whether it can be made lucrative to the state remains to be discovered. It is worth a fair trial. But the evidence furnished in this volume, while very suggestive and encouraging, is not convincing. Indeed, nothing but experiment, under favorable circumstances, can provide proof in the scientific sense. Under the dominant "spoils system" of politics success will remain impossible.

The state-use system thus far has been, in general, a sorry failure, from a financial standpoint. If our author has presented the European experience in this field we should see that this system is quite general on the other side of the Atlantic, and that many able administrators approve it; but that it is a costly method, as there seen, and that it presents difficulties which are admitted by its best friends. It may reduce somewhat direct and concentrated competition with the market of products of free labor, but how far no one can estimate with accuracy; it does not altogether quiet the criticisms of trade unions and manufacturers, who eagerly desire the business of supplying state institutions, army, and navy with needed commodities.

Therefore, while in full sympathy with the purpose of the author, and while desiring the introduction of the state-use system, one must hope that the bright and earnest secretary of the National Prison Committee will continue his studies, and strengthen his argument. For what he has already done in discovering and uncovering gross and inexcusable evils of administration he deserves abundant praise; and his constructive propositions are based on sound principles.

CHARLES R. HENDERSON